

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 AID-05 MC-02 /099 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: U.S. PRESS TREATMENT - ZAIRE

1. FOLLOWING IS LIGHT SAMPLING OF U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF
EVENTS IN ZAIRE, APRIL 19-22.

2. TOP STORIES IN ALL MEDIA APRIL 20 WERE (1) ZAIRE'S
DECISION TO BUY DOLLARS 60,000 WORTH OF COKE TO BE DELIVER-
ED, PROBABLY, ON THE NEWLY PURCHASED C-130 AND (2) REPORTS
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OF PYGMIES ARMED WITH BOWS AND ARROWS PARTICIPATING IN
FIGHTING. HARDLY ANY NEWSMAN OR EDITORIALIST COULD RESIST
THE TEMPTATION TO PLAY UP THE REPORTS.

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN
JODY POWELL'S APRIL 21 NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE
GIVE FLAVOR: BEGIN QUOTE

MR. POWELL: I AM AUTHORIZED TO SPECIFICALLY DENY THAT THE ELITE PYGMY CORPS WAS HIGH ON COKE (LAUGHTER)

Q; I HEARD THAT ZAIRE WAS GOING TO BE YOUR BAY OF PYGMIES (BOOS) END QUOTE

3. (A) NEW YORK TIMES (4/21)

--PAUL LEWIS REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT THE SHABA INVASION HAS STALLED AN ONGOING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MOBUTU AND THE SOCIETE GENERALE DE BELGIQUE.

-- - MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN REPORTS TWO KATANGAN PRISONERS WERE DISPLAYED BEFORE 60,000 PEOPLE IN THE KINSHASA STADIUM. PYGMY ARCHERS HAVE BECOME HEROES IN ZAIRE.

(B) WASHINGTON POST (4/22)

--ROBIN WRIGHT REPORTS THAT LUNDA TRIBESMEN ARE BEING VICTIMIZED BY THE ZAIRE ARMY IN SHABA.

--GEORGE C. WILSON REPORTS THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT FOOT THE BILL FOR ZAIRE'S COKES.

4. (A) THE NEW YORK TIMES (4/22)

--MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN REPORTS FROM KINSHASA THAT THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A GENERAL OFFENSIVE BY ZAIRIAN AND MOROCCAN TROOPS AGAINST THE KATANGAN INVADERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(B) THE WASHINGTON POST (4/22)

--THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY CARRIES A PAGE 1 STORY HEADLINED "ADMINISTRATION SEEKS FUNDS -- TANKS ASKED FOR ZAIRE". THE LEAD READS: "A STATE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE DISCOVERED YESTERDAY THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE -- AID WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS REGULARLY DESCRIBED AS 'NON-LETHAL' MAY INCLUDE M-60 TANKS AND ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS".

THE STORY IMPLIES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SECRETLY SENDING LETHAL EQUIPMENT NOW TO ZAIRE FOR USE IN THE PRESENT INSURGENCY.

(C) THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (4/22)

--JIM BROWNING REPORTS FROM PARIS THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS APPEAR IRRITATED AT BELGIAN CRITICISM OF FRENCH MILITARY

AID TO ZAIRE.

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